RAJYA SABHA

Monday the 12th May, 1986/22 *Vaisakha,* 1908 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair .

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STAR- RED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

fQUESTIONS SET FOR THE 9th MAY, 1986

Drinking water problem in Tamil Nadu

*24i. SHRI V GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted to identify villages in Tamil Nadu which lack adequate drinking water;

(b) if so, what is the number of villages in each district and also the steps proposed to be taken to provide drinking water in villages in Tamil Nadu in the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to divert water from Kerala so as to provide drinking wafer in chro nically affected villages in Tamil Nadu;

J The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, the 9th May, 1986 was adjourned on account of the 125th birth anniversary of Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore, Answers to Questions put down the lists for that day were laid the Table of the House on Friday the 12th May, 1986.

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to conduct a study to divert water from Kerala, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRI CULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement indicating the district-wise position of problem villages in Tamil Nadu at the commencement of the Sixth Plan and coverage thereof during the Sixth Plan is annexed, *(see* below) Fresh identification of problem villages is, however, being conducted by the State Government.

Provision .of drinking water is the responsibility of the States. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in providing safe drinking water in rural areas through assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). It is proposed to provide adequate drinking water facility to the entire rural population during the VIIth Plan. During the Vllth Plan an outlay of Rs 175.00 crores has been provided for the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) for rural water supply for Tamil Nadu. Rs. 20.13 crores was released to Tamil Nadu during 1985-86 under the Central Sector ARWSP. Rs. 15.44 crores has been allocated to Tamil Nadu during 1986-87 under the ARWSP and Rs. 7.72 crores has already been released as the first instalment.

There is no proposal to divert water from Kerala for providing drinking water to villages of Tamil Nadu State Government has informed that good sources are available near the rural village habitations which can be utilised to provide drinking water facilities.